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NEWS RELEASE

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**State Awards New Schools for 2 School Districts  
and announces 2007 Accomplishments**

(PHOENIX, AZ – January 11, 2008) The Arizona School Facilities Board (SFB) approved two new schools and announced their 2007 Accomplishments at the monthly board meeting yesterday.

**New Schools**

The schools were awarded as part of the FY08 Capital Plan Cycle, which will continue for the next several months. The cycle begins in early September when districts submit their requests for new construction. From that time, SFB staff analyzes the requests taking into account factors such as current district capacity and projected growth.

The Sunnyside Unified District received a 9-12 school for 1,182 students, which is expected to open in Fall 2011. The Vail Unified District received a 6-8 school for 785 students, which is also expected to open in Fall 2011.

Today's awards total \$26,936,333. A list of projects approved in this cycle is attached.

These approvals will allow the districts to design their schools within the allocated budgets. Upon completion of design, the projects will go before the Board again for approval to begin actual construction. More approvals are anticipated at February's Board Meeting to be held in the Wickenburg Unified District on February 7, 2008.

**Accomplishments**

As part of the Director's Report, Executive Director, John Arnold, provided the Board with a Year in Review and a list of accomplishments, adding "Even this list fails to tell the entire story." In addition to the items listed, the SFB has significantly improved its sophistication in demographic analysis and new construction design and pricing reviews. Both of these improvements have saved the State and local districts millions of dollars. Further, the SFB

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continues to provide excellent and timely facilities advice to districts across the State, and the SFB website has been dramatically expanded to provide useful facilities information to districts, legislators, and many other users from the school community. The complete list of accomplishments is also attached.

**SFB-Approved New Construction Projects  
FY 2008 Capital Plan Cycle**

<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>Student Capacity</b>	<b>Square Footage</b>	<b>Open FY</b>	<b>NC Funding *</b>
12/6/2007	Gila County Regional	040199000-9999-TBD	School	7-12	90	10,000	2011	\$1,563,600
12/6/2007	Gila County Regional	040199000-9999-TBD	School	7-12	63	7,000	2011	\$1,094,520
<b>Total:</b>					<b>153</b>	<b>17,000</b>		<b>\$2,658,120</b>
1/10/2008	Sunnyside Unified	100212000-9999-TBD	School	9-12	1,182	111,125	2011	\$18,203,386
1/10/2008	Vail Unified	100220000-9999-010N	School	6-8	785	62,836	2011	\$8,732,947
<b>Total:</b>					<b>1,967</b>	<b>173,961</b>		<b>\$26,936,333</b>
<b>Total New Awards FY 08:</b>					<b>2,120</b>	<b>190,961</b>		<b>\$29,594,453</b>

\* Funding cannot be awarded until sufficient funds are available in the New School Facilities Fund.

## **School Facilities Board 2007 Accomplishments**

- Awarded 22 New Construction Projects consisting of 1,535,829 square feet with a capacity of 17,989 students.
- Started construction on 29 new schools consisting of 3,014,100 square feet with a capacity of 33,614 students.
- Opened 35 New Construction Projects consisting of 3,044,145 square feet with a capacity of 35,896 students.
- Funded the purchase of 9 sites, including 321 acres.
- Accepted 18 land donations consisting of 294 acres, valued at \$34,529,000.
- Awarded five Emergency Projects worth \$524,039.
- Adopted Policy on Inflation for New Schools including the New Construction Design Elements.
- Adopted School Safety Recommendations.
- Established the Arizona Water and Energy Savings Grant Program.
- Established a process for reviewing capacity.
- Calculated capacity for every school and posted the information on the SFB website for district review.
- Reviewed and updated SFB Policy on Land Acquisition.
- Reviewed and updated SFB Policy on Capital Plans.
- Reviewed SFB Policy on New Construction.
- Implemented new pesticide standards.
- Implemented a web-based reporting system for Building Renewal Expenditures and Renovations.
- Developed and posted on the SFB website energy efficiency calculators for district use.
- Completed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Report-Ensuring Innovative School Facilities for the Digital Age.
- Completed the 10-year Sunset Audit, with a recommendation to be continued.
- Completed a bond refunding, saving the State approximately \$6 million.
- Visited and inspected 60 schools.